

Hon Mark Patterson

Minister for Rural Communities
Associate Minister of Agriculture
Associate Minister for Regional Development



17 DEC 2025

AM25-1022



By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear Keely,

Thank you and the expert panel for the opportunity to provide comments on the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 FTAA-2508-1095 Southland Wind Farm Project as part of my responsibilities as Minister for Rural Communities. My comments on this application are outlined below.

I am generally supportive of this application from Contact Energy Limited as the project is anticipated to deliver significant national or regional benefits and will improve outcomes for rural community by:

- generating a significant amount of renewable electricity annually for between 110,000 and 150,000 households in the area;
- creating 180 to 300 jobs during the construction phase of the project; and
- have a significant impact on helping to lower wholesale power prices and reduce carbon emissions.

This site is not without contention. I have been approached by neighbouring landowners concerned about a visual impact to what is undeniably an outstanding natural landscape. However, it is my view that, on balance, the regional and national good outweighs those concerns.

This application as described is consistent with the Government's commitment to double the overall volume of electricity from renewable sources by 2050 and transition to a low-emissions future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I look forward to learning about the outcome of this application in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Patterson".

Hon Mark Patterson
Minister for Rural Communities